

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECOGNIZED



Capt. Jennifer Clarke, Officer Travis Kiser and Sherry Gordon, Community Development Program Administrator

The City of Kannapolis has been recognized for its citywide National Night Out Event by the National Association of Town Watch. The event was named one of the Top 21 across the U.S. for cities with a population of 50,000 to 100,000 because of its continuous success in bringing together people to foster positive friendships.

The City hosted the National Night Out event with live marching band music, a community resource fair with 25 non-profits represented, distributed 400 bookbags full of school supplies for children and gave away 1,000 hotdogs.



FARMERS MARKET SEEKING VENDORS FOR SUMMER 2023

The Kannapolis Farmers Market is looking for vendors. If you are a farmer, artisan, crafter or baker, we would love for you to participate in the market.

The market is looking for people who offer a wide variety of fresh local produce, as well as cheese, ice cream, honey, baked goods, spices, jewelry, soaps, candies, crafts, pottery, hand-crafted wood items, art, food trucks and more.

Vendors pay an annual membership fee of \$30, and a weekly rental fee of \$10 per 14-foot space.

The market is open May through September and operates every Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the corner of Vance Avenue and Dale Earnhardt Boulevard.

For more information on the Farmers Market, visit www.kannapolisnc.gov/farmersmarket. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Irene Sacks, Director of Economic Development, at isacks@kannapolisnc.gov or 704-920-4326.

MARCH 2023



OPENING YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

Did you know there are several resources in the Kannapolis area for entrepreneurs? The Cabarrus Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship opened in 2021 and welcomes aspiring entrepreneurs, existing businesses and the diverse community to learn, grow and accelerate their businesses through education, networking and mentoring.

The Center is located in downtown Concord as a co-working and meeting space, and its programming is available to Cabarrus and Rowan County residents and beyond. Visit www.cabarruscenter.com for more information. Some of the services and programs include:

- **Retail Lab** – This free, six-week “boot-camp” program is designed for early stage or pre-launch retailers in Cabarrus and Rowan counties who want to launch a brick-and-mortar or e-commerce business in the retail products and services markets. Graduates have the opportunity to test their concept in the Retail Lab Pop-Up Store for six months and a chance to win a micro-grant to fund business growth. The program is offered in the Spring and Fall.
- **New Ventures Tech Accelerator** – The program provides technology-based entrepreneurs with software and business development services, technology expertise, product development expertise, legal and accounting services, and mentor services. Applications are accepted year-round.
- **Health Equity Innovation Challenge** – Sponsored by Atrium Health,

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CONVENIENT UTILITY BILL PAY OPTIONS

- Online**
customerconnect.kannapolisnc.gov
- Phone**
704-920-4444, choose option 1
- Kiosk**
City Hall, 401 Laureate Way
- Mail**
Mail checks to City of Kannapolis,
P.O. Box 604072, Charlotte, NC
28260-4072
- In Person**
City Hall, 401 Laureate Way,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday
- Dropbox**
City Hall Parking Lot,
Check payments only



INTERESTED IN LEARNING CPR?



For resources on how you or your group can complete Community CPR and AED training, contact Kannapolis Fire staff members Bill Jamieson (bjamieson@kannapolisnc.gov) or Lee Goodman (lgoodman@kannapolisnc.gov), call 704-920-4283 or visit www.redcross.org.

THE CITY OF KANNAPOLIS
401 Laureate Way | Kannapolis, NC 28081
704.920.4444
www.kannapolisnc.gov

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this business idea competition seeks solutions to address health equity and health disparities among minority and disadvantaged populations in areas such as access to healthcare screening, improvement of healthcare outcomes, and improvement of economic mobility, food security, transportation and other contributing factors. Applications are accepted until March 31. Winners will receive a start-up grant and a spot in a 12-week accelerator program to advance the business concept.

Venture Mentoring Service – The Cabarrus Center connects business founders with a team of advisors to grow and develop the venture. Applications are accepted year-round.

The Cabarrus Center is also home to several partner organizations, including the RCCC Small Business Center, which provides free workshops and counseling services to new and existing businesses in Rowan and Cabarrus counties. Visit www.rccc.edu/sbc for more information.

Other entrepreneurial resources in the area include:

- **Small Business and Technology Development Center** – Located on the UNC-Charlotte campus, the SBTDC provides mostly free management counseling and educational services to small and mid-sized businesses.
- **NC IDEA** – This is a private, statewide foundation that offers micro- and seed grants and programs for entrepreneurs.
- **Women's Business Center of Charlotte** – WBCC offers seminars, networking opportunities, and one-on-one business counseling to help women-owned businesses start and grow.
- **SCORE Charlotte** – Businesses are matched with mentors who are experienced entrepreneurs, corporate managers and executives with a wide range of expertise through the free and confidential mentor program.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Plastic bags are difficult and costly to recycle, and most end up on landfill sites where they take around 300 years to photodegrade. They break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the soil and waterways, and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them.

Bring your own shopping bags everywhere you go. Reusable bags are not just for the grocery store. Take them wherever you shop. Keep them by the front door, in your purse, backpack and in your car.



STADIUM LOFTS OPENS THIS FALL



Stadium Lofts is taking shape on West Avenue. The building will be the home of Towel City Tavern, Kannapolis Cannon Ballers team store and 43 refined residential units in the first phase. The project is a partnership between Temerity Capital Partners and Lansing Melbourne Group with Summit Design Build as the general contractor.

Towel City Tavern will be a full-service barbeque restaurant and tavern featuring local beers brewed onsite by Cabarrus Brewing Company and a top-shelf bourbon bar with seating overlooking Atrium Health Ballpark.

The Kannapolis Cannon Ballers team offices, team store and team ticket office will make this their permanent home.

Stadium Lofts residences include studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments with upgraded finishes. Each one will have its own patio overlooking the ballpark or West Avenue's streetscape.

Preleasing for residential units will begin this month with first occupancy expected this summer. For more information on Stadium Lofts, visit lvestadiumlofts.com.

NORTH CAROLINA RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION AWARDS PRESENTED TO WILSON AND MILLS

At the recent North Carolina Recreation & Park State Conference, City of Kannapolis Council Member Doug Wilson and Parks & Recreation Director Gary Mills were recognized with two of the organization's most prestigious awards.

Council Member Doug Wilson received the Distinguished Legislator Award. This award is presented to an elected official who has made an outstanding contribution to the general field of recreation and parks on a national, state or local level. Wilson was a founding member of the Kannapolis Parks & Recreation Commission in 1989 and served as chair of the commission for eight years. He coached girls' basketball for A.L. Brown High School and has been a volunteer coach for the Parks & Recreation Department for the last three years.

Council Member Wilson, along with City



Doug Wilson



Gary Mills

Council, was instrumental in adding youth athletics to the offerings of the Kannapolis Parks & Recreation Department. He has served on the Kannapolis City Council since 2013.

Parks & Recreation Director Gary Mills received the NCRPA Fellow Award. The Fellow Award is the highest award the Association can bestow on one of its members for outstanding service and leadership. Selection is based on an objective system of rating, including membership in NCRPA; a minimum of

10 years' experience in the field of recreation and parks; service contributions to the recreation and park movement through the Association and other state and national recreational and park organizations; and exemplary professional leadership and character.

Mills served on the NCRPA Board for 11 years in multiple capacities, including President of the

Association in 2017. He also serves the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) as an accreditation chair and has traveled across the country helping other departments achieve their national accreditation. He has spearheaded the accreditation of the Kannapolis Parks & Recreation Department, which is now recognized as one of the Top 1% of all Parks & Recreation Departments in the country. Mills has been in the parks and recreation profession for 32 years, with the last 22 years serving the City of Kannapolis.



WWW.KANNAPOLISNC.GOV/JOBS

WE'RE HIRING!

